

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, January 1. 1712.

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**I**N my last, I stated my Thoughts about the Progress of the ensuing Treaty, as clear, and as little liable to Exception as I can; it seems to me, the Cavils at the Reason of a Treaty are all remov'd, in only asserting this one Thing, which the general Mistake of Europe has demurr'd about, viz. *That the 7 Proposals of France were only Motives to a Treaty, but not the Ground of the Treaty.*

I confess I cannot but wonder, how the Arts of our Enemies prevail'd so much to amuse our Friends, as to think the Confederates should Treat upon such a narrow restrain'd Scheme; and those who spend their

Time, either on one Hand, to explain and defend them, or on the other, to Remark upon and Expose them, equally bewilder themselves, lose their Labour, and amuse the World — If they are the full, to which a Treaty is Limited, no Man in his Senses could desire the Confederates to Treat — If they are only Motives to persuade the Confederates to meet, and enter into a general Negotiation, no Man without like Reproach to his Senses, can justify any single Confederate, that when the rest agree to Treat, shall absolutely refuse, as the Emperor has hitherto done.

Thus

Thus this foolish Mistake which has bewilder'd Europe, is got over, and we shall soon see, whether the Emperor will Treat, or what he has to say next.

We are now therefore supposing the Congress begun, and soon you will see whether France is sincere or no; for my part, I must own, I believe France will comply with every Thing you can in Reason Demand, and that you may get as much at this Treaty by a Peace, as the most Sanguine of our Men of War can expect in three Years War more, tho' every Year were to end with Success; and if we have not good Terms, I must own, I shall think it our own Fault.

Those who think every Man that Argues for a Treaty, Argues for a Peace; and every Man that Argues for a Peace, Argues to give Spain and the Indies to King Philip, are meer Mad-Men, and deserve no notice, and they receive one Mortification in this Clamour, from the first Step her Majesty has taken, viz. Refusing to give Passports to the Plenipotentiaries of King Philip, and to the Electors of Bavaria and Cologne; Does this look like a Resolution before-Hand, to give up Spain and the Indies to France? There may, for ought I know, be some, who would give up any Thing, but I must own I see no Ground for it here; nor has any Thing yet, were Candor and not Prejudice the Guide of our Temper, look'd as if we would give up any Thing we could keep.

I believe England will agree to give up nothing, but what the rest of the Confederates shall agree to give up, and I dare say they will give up nothing they can save; when we see the British Plenipotentiaries turn Advocates for France, and Pleading for King Philip, we shall have more to say — O, but say our Writers, the Jacobite Hackney Writers own it, and the Government Countenances them — The first may be true; and these Jacobite Writers have gain'd their End in it of us, viz. To Distract and Disunite us; but you will see them all change their Notes, when they see Things go contrary to their Ridiculous Doctrine: As to the Countenance given to their Wri-

ting, if it be so, I am sorry for it; but I think it is pretty general, and I wish either Side would write with more Temper and Judgment, or cease the Debate; and I should be glad, upon that Condition, to lay down with the first: But it is a sad Time, if we must conclude the Government Countenances every Pamphlet it doth not punish — That Doctrine would make King William Countenancing the Pretender; and yet if it did appear, that the Government Countenanc'd those Writers, who Argue for giving up Spain, and for Treating only upon the 7 Proposals of France, all I could infer from thence would be, that so far they were in the wrong; for these Writings have been Injurious even to the Ministry, who they say they write for; and a Hundred Things I could quote out of some of those Writers, are Injurious to the very Measures the Ministry are visibly taking.

But the Proces of the Treaty will put an End to many of these Things; *an End has already been put to some*, such as the Proposals of France being the Limitations of the Treaty; The Necessity of carrying on the War with Vigour, till a Good Peace may be obtain'd; The Necessity of entering into a firmer Union among the Confederates, as the only Security of the Agreement when made; these are three Steps, which, as they put an end to a great deal of Jealousie and Suspicion, so they defeat some People of a great deal of expected Ground of Clamour.

It remains now to take a short View of the great Subject in Debate — And without being afraid to speak my Thoughts for fear of any Man's Clamour; I lay it down, not as what I am to defend, *for it needs no defense*, but as what I foresee will be, by the Consent of every Confederate, (the Emperor excepted) the Conclusion of this Treaty, if it ends in a Peace.

I say *will be*, because it seems to me it can be no otherwise.

I say (the Emperor excepted) because we may easily see he will never agree to part with any Thing he can keep, and

and were your Peace never so good, except he has all, which I hope we shall never see. I believe he will never be Satisfy'd with the Peace.

I say no other End but a Partition can be made of this War; I give you one Reason which I think may be call'd Unanswerable, viz. That without a Partition in some part, you cannot make good your Treaties with Portugal, Savoy, and the States-General; in all which Treaties, part of the Spanish Monarchy was to be given to each of them; this is a Partition in the Letter of it: But when I say no End of the War can be, without a Partition, I have two other Things to add; first, there is no doubt, as I said in my last, all the Allies, except as before, will acquiesce in giving something to King Philip, if it be but to be rid of him; even at the Treaty of Gbertrudenbergh it was offer'd — I wish we had Spain and the Indies entirely evacuated by him, for giving him Naples, Sicily, and Sardinia, which France offer'd some Years ago, and which, had we granted, much Blood and Money had been sav'd; and this made me say three Years ago, that all this War has been carried on, for the Kingdom of Naples only; and now, unless the Emperor qui's Italy, I affirm it cannot be Safe to give him the rest; so that it will be our Interest to give Philip what before we justly refus'd him.

But a farther Partition, I say, is necessary, to make some suitable Addition to Britain, for the vast Expence of the War, and to make us, and the States-General, a Match for the Popish Powers of Europe, whether French or Austrian; and this has been the Foundation I have given upon all along, and for which I have been so much abus'd, let them Answer it that can — Why should not WE have something, for all we done and spent?

It may be objected to me, that I us'd to say, and have Printed in the Review, That we seek nothing but Peace; That Trading Nations covet no Conquests; and that we have enough, if we have Freedom of Commerce; and indeed, generally speaking, this is true;

but this particular Case makes it differ, because here are two Powers to be left in Europe, from either of which, the Ruin of the Protestant Interest may, one Time or other, be justly apprehended; and it is necessary to put England and Holland in such a Posture, as that they may not be over-power'd for the future, tho' no such Confederacy as this should be ever form'd again.

If our warm People could in their Heat, look but one Age before them, this very Consideration would shew them the Necessity of a Partition, viz. That such Possessions, such Advantages of Commerce, such hold of the Spanish West Indies may be put into our Hands, as that we may make Spain, into whose Hands soever it shall fall, entirely dependent upon us; and our Naval Strength, be so far Encreas'd, as that the Naval Power of France may never be able to match us, either Jointly or Severally; and as this is my View in a Partition, and not the Arguing for France, as that I soleat Slanderer, the Observator, has fallg pretended, I doubt not, in Time, to make appear, and to have all honest Men's Eyes open to the Justice and Reason of it; and I shall, in its order, undertake to shew how this shall be done.

This will destroy all the pretended Schemes, which our publick Papers say, France has laid for a Chamber of Commerce in Spain, with particular Priviledges to the French Nation, and Disadvantages to the English, which all that know the Spanish Trade, know is an Impracticable Whymsie, and what neither France could Effect, or the Spaniards comply with, any more than they would give the Mountains of Potosi to them, and therefore to amuse our Selves with such Things, is too Ridiculous — Let England have such Hold of America, and Holland of Flanders, as may be stipulated in a Treaty, and let the French make what Treaties they can, we shall destroy them by the Consequence of the Thing, tho' Philip were to possess Spain, as they desire.

If I live to go on with this Thought, I shall soon explain myself, I hope, to your Satisfaction, and make some Men blush, not for their Treatment of me only, that is a Trifle I contemn, but for their Sacrificing the Interest of their Friends, to prevent what there is; really no Danger of.

But what say you to Separate Treaties, to private Contracts, to a Peace without our Confederates, to Abandoning the Dutch,

to giving up all to France? — I shall answer, in short first, reserving it to a larger Discourse; it is impossible, the Queen, and every honest Man that loves her Majesty's Interest, abhors it, nor do I believe the Ministry, or any Man else, in his senses, can have a View so Extravagant; nor is there the least need, either of the Question, or of the Thing itself; but of this hereafter.

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